

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Preliminary Comments

Applicant notes that responsibility for prosecution of the subject patent application was transferred to the Undersigned Attorney following receipt of the Office Action to which this paper is responsive. Applicant apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from the claim amendments requested herein, but believes that the claims as amended herein more particularly describe the invention.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 5, and 6 are objected to because of informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments as set forth above are responsive to these objections and effective to place all pending claims in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Patent Office states that for Claims 1 and 5, "The relationship between the first series of steps and the last step of "generating" is unclear." In response to this rejection, Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to obviate the grounds for rejection. The last step of each claim has been amended to reflect that the samples comprising the secondary library are chosen based on their absorption profiles generated in the previous steps.

The Patent Office further states that, for Claims 1 and 5, "The metes and bounds of "above" are unclear." In response to this rejection, Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to more particularly describe the invention and to reflect that samples chosen for the secondary library are those that meet the parameters of the desired absorption profile selected in the previous step. Support for these claim amendments is found, for example, on page 23, lines 11-28 of the Specification as filed. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome by the amendments of Claims 1 and 5. Applicant submits that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 5

The phrase "in vitro" has been replaced with the phrase "in vivo" in Claim 2(ii) and in Claim 5, line 12. These amendments more accurately describe the invention and are consistent

with the language as filed in the original claims. Support for these claim amendments is found, for example, on page 6, line 30; page 16, lines 16-26; page 23, line 11; and page 42, line 23.

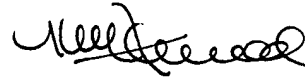
Claims 3 and 4

Claim 3 has been amended to more particularly describe the invention by incorporating the language of Claim 4 and particularly describing "activity" as "biological activity." Support for this amendment is found, for example, on page 23, line 31. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Summary

In light of the above amendment, consideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 500282.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 8/25/00

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